

Interagency Council on Affordable Housing
Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Room 410

State Capitol

Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present: Anne Foley Chair, Peter Palermino (DSS) for Commissioner Roderick Bremby, Barbara Geller (DMHAS), Kim Somaroo-Rodriquez (DCF), Rebecca Fleming (DOC), Commissioner Catherine Smith (DECD), Howard Rifkin (Partnership for Strong Communities), Betsy Crum (Connecticut Housing Coalition), Lisa Sementilli (Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness) for Carol Walter, and Eric Chatman (Connecticut Housing Finance Authority).

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 1:15 p.m. by the Chair, Anne Foley. The Chair welcomed the members and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Review Statutory Requirements

A. Background

The chair reviewed Section 113 of Public Act 12-1 of the June Special Session which establishes the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing to advise and assist in the planning and implementation of the new Department of Housing. The chair noted that the legislation is the result of Governor Malloy's proposal to consolidate state housing programs into one organization and will support three main goals: (1) to be more consumer-friendly and easier to navigate for potential and existing clients; (2) to enhance our productivity and ensure a comprehensive approach to housing initiatives; and (3) to provide an effective structure to bring the state's housing agenda to the forefront.

B. Requirements

The Chair reviewed the requirements of Section 113 of Public Act 12-1, June Special Session. The Council is required to: (1) Assess the housing needs of low income individuals and families; (2) Review and analyze the effectiveness of existing state programs in meeting those needs; (3) Identify barriers to effective

housing delivery systems; and (4) Develop strategies and recommendations to enhance the availability of safe and affordable housing in communities across the state through the Department of Housing.

Additionally, the Council is required to submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, housing and human services on the implementation of the Department of Housing by January 15, 2013. The report will address recommendations concerning: (1) programs to be transferred to the Department of Housing and a timeline for implementation; (2) effective changes to the state's housing delivery systems; (3) prioritization of housing resources; and (4) enhances coordination among and across housing systems. The Chair reminded members that the Council is on-going after submission of the report.

III. Discuss Council Structure

A. Rules of Procedure

The Chair reviewed the draft Rules of Procedure for the Council. After a brief discussion Howard Rifkin moved approval of the rules of procedures with two changes: (1) acknowledgement that the Council will attempt to reach decisions by consensus and (2) inclusion that the Council's meetings, including executive sessions and special meetings, will be subject to the provisions set forth in the Freedom of Information Act regarding meetings of governmental agencies. The motion was seconded by Catherine Smith. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

B. Council Appointees

The Chair referenced the statute requiring three additional members to be appointed by the Council; two members who are receiving state housing assistance and one member who is eligible to receive state housing assistance.

The Chair reviewed a letter from the Publicly -Assisted Housing Resident Network (PHRN) nominating two individuals, Ms. Daisy Franklin of Norwalk, and Mr. Joseph Martel of East Hartford to be appointed to the Council as members who are receiving state housing assistance.

After a brief discussion, Betsy Crum made a motion to accept Ms. Franklin and Mr. Martel as Council appointees. The motion was seconded by Eric Chatman. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Council appointees will be contacted and notified of the next meeting.

The Chair asked for nominations for the remaining Council appointee who will be a state resident eligible to receive state housing assistance as stipulated by

legislation. The Department of Children and Families will submit nominations for consideration by the Council. If necessary the Council will vote on the nomination(s) electronically. Council staff will research the process for electronic voting.

IV. Draft Work Plan

A. Process to Complete Work Plan

The Chair reviewed the draft work plan. The work plan outlines Council activities on a monthly basis, organized around the Council's monthly meetings. Following the review Council members discussed the work plan and offered the following comments:

Changes to the August Meeting

- Information on the housing needs of low income individuals and families will be prepared and presented to the Council by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, and Partnership for Strong Communities.
- Information on the effectiveness of existing state housing programs in meeting the needs of low income individuals and families will be postponed until the Council receives input from outside housing experts at the September meeting.
- Information on the barriers to effective housing delivery will be prepared and presented to the Council by the Connecticut Housing Coalition and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.
- Information will be shared on best practices from other states on the organizational structure of housing agencies.

B. Outside Experts and Public Input

Council members identified the following groups as outside experts to potentially attend the September meeting to provide input on the vision of the new Department of Housing including the role of the state:

- Connecticut National Association Of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (Conn-NAHRO)
 - Corporation for Supportive Housing
 - For Profit Housing Developers in Connecticut
 - Home Ownership/Property Managers- CHFA
 - National Experts
- A discussion regarding a Public Hearing will be until the next meeting.

V. Housing Inventory

Council members will review and update the draft inventory on state housing programs by adding programs omitted from the list and missing information on programs, identifying programs recommended to be deleted from the list, and documenting program outcomes such as the number of clients served through programs. Council staff will revise and forward the housing inventory to Council members. Council members will respond and submit revisions within two weeks.

VI. Next Steps

The Council finalized the meeting schedule for 2012. The meetings will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Lyceum at 227 Lawrence Street in Hartford on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 14
Tuesday, September 25
Tuesday, October 9
Tuesday, November 14
Tuesday, December 12

VI. Adjournment

Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m.